St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

Sheffield, Ohio
1845-1995

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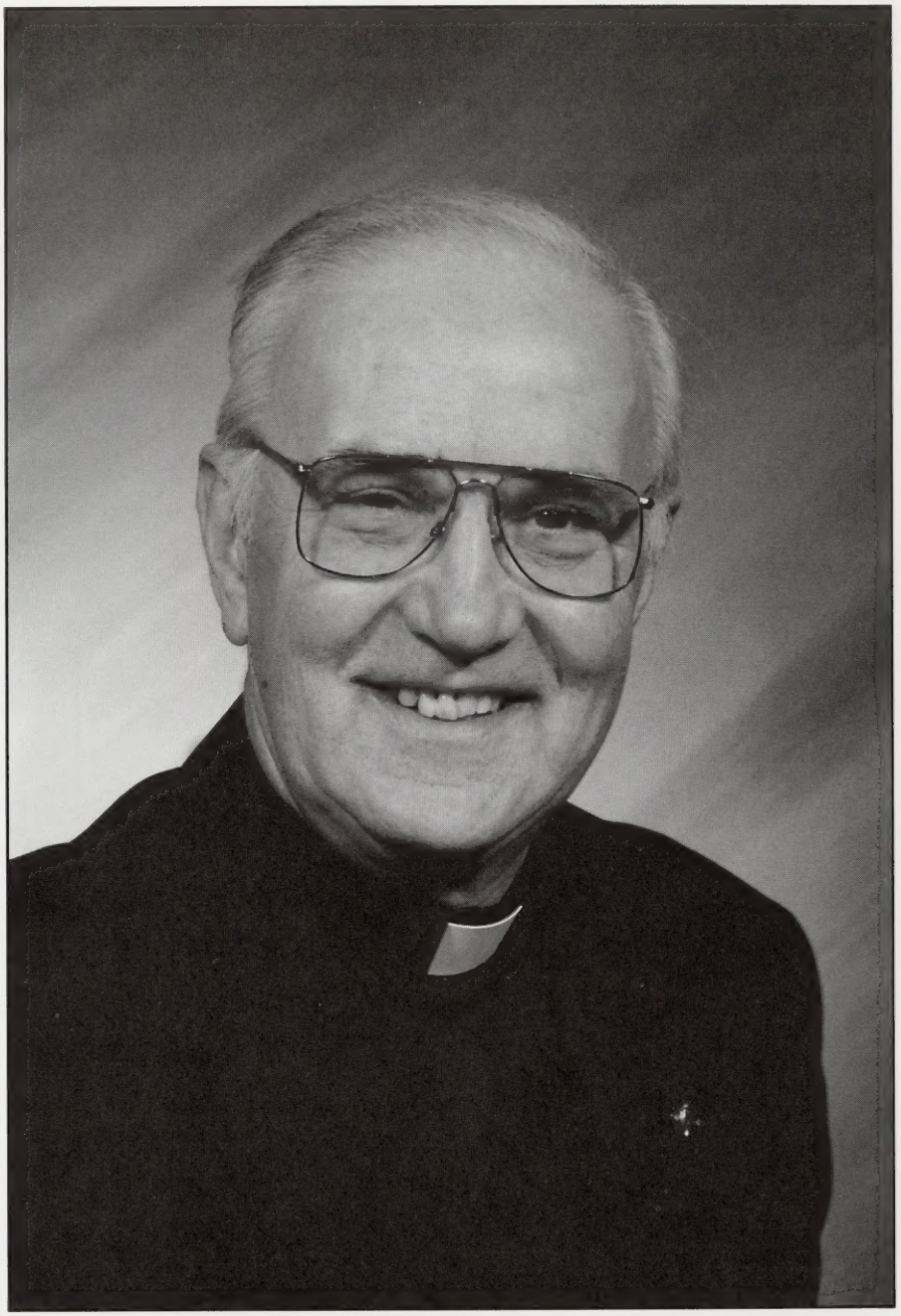

Rev. Edward J. Luca, J.C.D.

BIOGRAPHY OF REV. EDWARD J. LUCA, J.C.D.

Reverend Edward J. Luca, J.C.D. was born in Lorain, Ohio, on Friday, December 13, 1929, of John F. and Mary A. (nee Stohla) Luca. He is the oldest of four children: Siblings are Mrs. Albert (Bernadette M.) Robertson of Lorain, Ohio; Mrs. Marceline J. Downie of Lorain, Ohio; and Raymond J. Luca of Springfield, Virginia. Mr. John F. Luca died in April, 1994, and Mrs. Mary A. Luca died in June, 1968. Rev. Luca attended Holy Trinity Parochial School and public schools in Lorain, Ohio, graduating from Saint Mary High School, Lorain, Ohio in 1947. Then attended Sacred Heart College, Detroit, Michigan and Saint Mary Theological Seminary, Cleveland, Ohio. Ordained a priest at Saint John Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio on December 18, 1954, by Archbishop Edward F. Hoban.

Served as Associate Pastor at Saint Wendelin Church, Cleveland from 1955-1957 and then at Saint John Cathedral, Cleveland from 1957-1958. Graduate Studies at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, Italy, from 1958-1961, obtaining a Doctor of Canon Law degree (J.C.D.) in June, 1961.

Member of the Diocesan Tribunal of Cleveland from 1961-1990 (serving as Presiding Judge 1974-1979). Simultaneous with this assignment, served also as Chaplain at Marycrest School for Girls, Independence, Ohio from 1961-1968; Personal Secretary to Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann from 1968-1977; Administrator at Saint Basil Church in Brecksville, Ohio from 1977-1980; Moderator of Diocesan Council of Priests 1981-1985; Director of Clergy Personnel for the Diocese of Cleveland 1985-1990; Chaplain Our Lady of the Lake, Knights of Columbus, Council 4223, Lorain, Ohio from 1990-present. Pastoral Staff at Saint John Cathedral with residence at the Cathedral from 1980-1990. Appointed Pastor of Saint Teresa Avila Parish, Sheffield, Ohio in January, 1990, and appointed as Adjutant Judicial Vicar of the Inter-diocesan Appeal Court for the State of Ohio and Washington, D.C. also in 1990. Presently serving in both assignments.

In 1992, elected and appointed Dean (Vicar Forane) for Lorain County and appointed ex officio member of the Cleveland Diocese Presbyteral Council for three years. He serves presently on the Advisory Board of Northeast Lorain County Social Services since September, 1993, and is currently serving on the Sheffield Village Citizens Advisory Committee.

His Holiness John Paul II

lovingly imparts His Apostolic Blessing
as a pledge of divine protection and graces to

St. Teresa Parish

on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial Celebration
1845 ~ ~1995

Ex Aedibus Vaticanis die 28. VI. 1995

+ Oscar Rizzato

Archiepiscopus
Elemosynarius Apostolicus

Diocese of Cleveland
Cathedral Square

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

549/1995

October 1995

Dear Father Luca and Parish Family of Saint Teresa,

It is always a privilege for me to extend my congratulations to a parish on the occasion of a significant anniversary. One hundred fifty years of pastoral existence is certainly a time for celebration!

The founders of Saint Teresa Parish were a small group of farmers who hailed from Baden and Bavaria. They were very willing to make all the sacrifices necessary to keep a small mission church going in the absence of a resident pastor. Missionary priests from the Precious Blood community made regular visits to the congregation. The humble log chapel was followed by a frame building and then a brick church. This third church literally rose from the ashes of the second building which was destroyed in a fire. The parishioners did much of the work themselves on the new church. It was dedicated on the 15th of October in 1908, the feast day of Saint Teresa of Avila.

This rural congregation struggled through the difficult years of the Depression and the World War. In the 1950's and the 1960's, growth in the northern part of the parish saw the establishment of a new school and later the new parish of Saint Thomas the Apostle. Saint Teresa Parish was once more reduced in numbers, but not in spirit and dedication.

The parishioners continued to live their faith and support their parish. In recent years the parish is growing again. Your patroness, Saint Teresa of Avila, a Spanish Carmelite mystic who lived in the sixteenth century, recognized that all of us are called to a deeper union with God and that union is based on prayer. I pray that all of us be renewed in the same love of God that motivated Saint Teresa.

May God bless all of you on this significant anniversary and in the fruitful years to come.

With my blessing, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Anthony M. Pilla

Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla
Bishop of Cleveland

1027 Superior Ave ❖ Cleveland OH 44114-2560 ❖ (216) 696-6525 Ext 203 ❖ FAX 696-6547

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Teresa de Cepeda y Ahumada was born on March 25, 1515, in Avila, Spain. She came from a large family, having eleven brothers and sisters. Although Teresa was close to all of her brothers and sisters, she was the closest to her brother, Rodrigo, as they were near in age. From the age of seven, Teresa studied the lives of the saints, admiring them and wanting to live the life they had lived. In 1522 Teresa and Rodrigo set out to gain Heaven by dying a Martyrs' death, believing that torment and torture would be a small price to pay for eternal life. Without telling anyone, they began their journey to the land of the Moors to die for their faith. Fortunately they were found by an uncle before they were able to leave the safety of Avila and returned to the protection of their mother. This setback by no means stopped Teresa in her quest for holiness.

In 1528 Teresa's mother died when Teresa was thirteen years of age. Teresa tearfully turned to the Mother of God and asked Her to be her Mother also. Without the watchful eye of an earthly mother for supervision, Teresa and Rodrigo became captivated with reading books on romance. Teresa became fascinated with the latest styles, the newest perfumes, hair styles, etc. In 1531, Teresa's father, quite concerned over Teresa's change in behavior, sent Teresa to Our Lady of Grace Convent in Avila. Teresa found herself attracted to the Augustinian Nuns and their way of life, but after 18 months Teresa had to be returned to her father as she was seriously ill. After recovering from her illness, Teresa begged her father to allow her to become a nun. In 1536, at the age of twenty and against her father's wishes, Teresa went to the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation outside of Avila. A year later,

after being professed on November 3, 1537, Teresa was again removed from the convent because of an illness. Teresa's condition worsened and the doctors diagnosed that she had tuberculosis as well as heart disease. Teresa appeared to have died. A grave was prepared, but Teresa's father insisted that his daughter was not dead. Four days later Teresa awoke from having a vision wherein she saw her family and communities of nuns in Heaven through the intercession of her prayers and suffering. Although paralyzed, Teresa returned to the Incarnation Convent and turned to St. Joseph; she was completely cured of her paralysis in three years.

For the next twenty years Teresa suffered through a purgatory on earth. In addition to her physical pains, she suffered spiritual and mental ones. The steady flow of visitors coming and going from the convent troubled Teresa. Instead of living more fully in this new life with the Lord, Teresa and the nuns looked forward, more and more, to news of the outside world. Teresa knew she was sacrificing her prayer life and eventually her Lord by the temptations of her friends, their world and their vanities. Teresa suffered an ongoing struggle as she was never able to give herself completely to the Lord. She constantly struggled for a closer and intimate relationship with the Lord. Teresa began to realize that if the nuns were cloistered they would not be exposed to the above temptations.

To achieve this relationship with the Lord, in 1560 Teresa started a Reform movement. She wanted to bring back to her order the Primitive Rule that was present when the Carmelite Order was founded. In a vision, the Lord told Teresa that the Reform was His Will and He would be there to protect her. He even told Teresa to name her first convent after his foster father on earth, St. Joseph. Teresa was given the authority to establish the Reformed convent. When the people of Avila discovered Teresa's intentions, they protested and Teresa was told she could not proceed with the Reformed convent. Both the townspeople and the nuns at the Convent of the Incarnation were upset with Teresa. She was now fifty years of age, alone, friendless, hated, and tormented by doubt. The approval for the new convent finally came from Pope Pius IV in Rome for her to establish a convent under the Carmelite Order. In 1563 Teresa finally left the Convent of the Incarnation for St. Joseph Convent. Teresa founded the convent under The Primitive Rule of Carmel, formed by St. Albert in 1209, which was the strictest of all rules in the history of the Church. This rule was adopted by Teresa to keep any and all distractions away from

living and serving the Lord. Teresa spent the next fifteen years founding seventeen convents of the Primitive Rule.

Teresa often passionately prayed to the Lord with her heart and soul. In her autobiography, Teresa said, "Mental prayer is nothing else, in my opinion, but friendly conversation with Someone who loves us." Teresa's writings and experiences with Mental Prayer are not only followed by the Carmelites today, but by many others seeking a special union with the Lord. During her life, Teresa had many visions of the Lord, raptures and on occasion her body was lifted into the air through levitation. She shared these experiences with those close to her. Teresa was known far and wide as a great mystic. Because of her actions Teresa came under the suspicion of the Inquisition. Although Teresa was often misunderstood, persecuted, accused, deserted and tortured, she always trusted in the Lord. Teresa died at the age of sixty-seven on October 4, 1582, at the Convent of Alba de Tormes. Pope Paul V declared Teresa blessed in 1614 and she was canonized by Pope Gregory XV in 1622. On September 27, 1970, Pope Paul VI proclaimed Teresa a DOCTOR of the Church. During the ceremony, the Pope spoke of her as a Teacher of "great depth."

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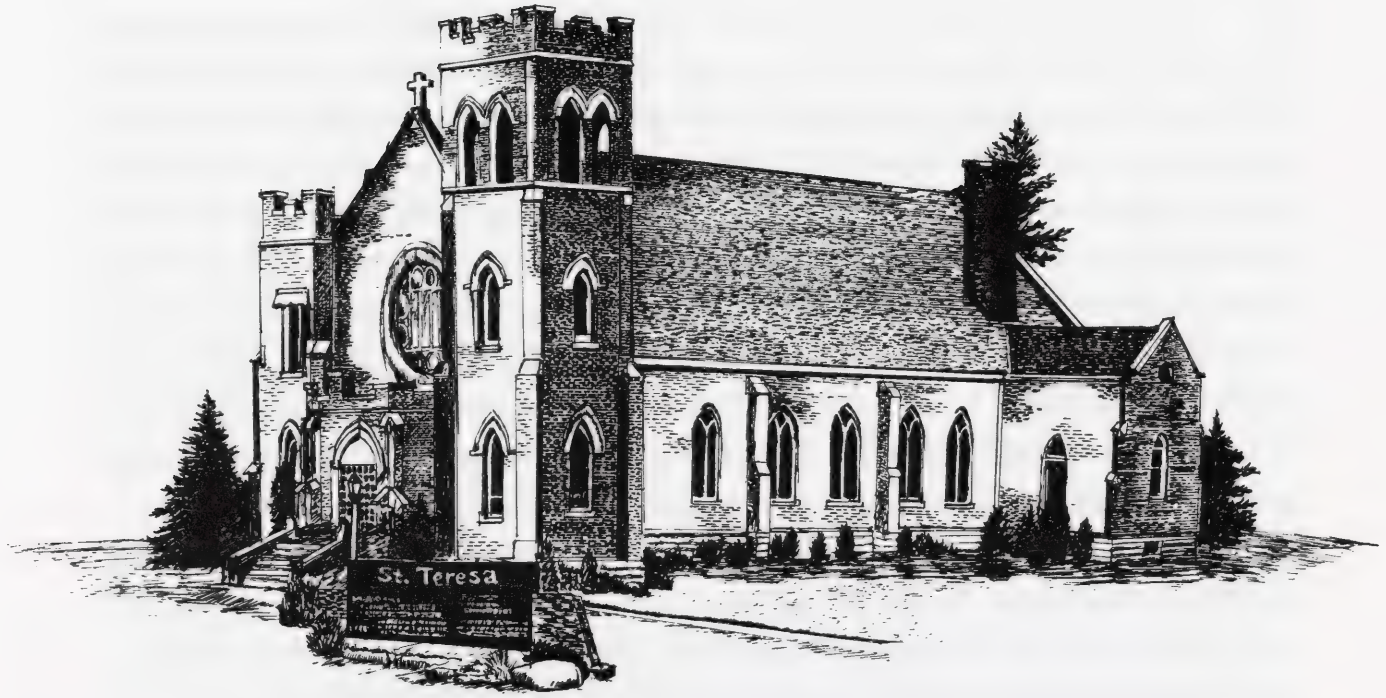
Let nothing disturb you
Let nothing frighten you
All things pass away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
He who has God
finds he lacks nothing
God alone suffices.

Teresa de Jesús



THE HISTORY

OF

SAINT TERESA CHURCH

FROM

1845 to 1995

Section One

THE ENGLISH SETTLERS

In the early 1800's, the portion of the Western Reserve soon to be called "Sheffield" was heavily wooded and generously populated with wild game of many species. Early explorers to this wilderness area returned to the east with stories of the beautiful forests, rich soil and an abundance of water provided by Lake Erie and nearby rivers and streams. The number of newly arriving immigrants to the eastern shores of America was steadily increasing each year. Many immigrants had fled religious persecution and political tyranny in their homelands. All were anxious to break the bonds of servitude they were forced to endure in Europe. These new arrivals were hungry for an opportunity to settle in a place being described as a "bountiful land in the wilderness." Many of these arrivals had heard stories of land for sale in the Western Reserve area of Ohio and were anxious to buy their share.

Decisions concerning the sale of Ohio Lands were taken prior to the adoption of the Constitution of the United States in 1787. The Congress of Confederation, which ruled until that time, needed money but had few ways to raise it other than the sale of land. Conflicting claims to the western territories were based on grants to the original colonists of the original thirteen states. These grants had to be settled before legal titles to the land could be issued. This was accomplished by the concession of all claims with the exception of a tract of three million acres along the South Shore of Lake Erie reserved by the State of Connecticut. This area was six percent larger than the whole state of Connecticut and became known as the Western Reserve.

THE CONNECTICUT LAND COMPANY

In order to generate cash to offset its increasing debts, the State of Connecticut sold all of their rights to the Western Reserve to the Connecticut Land Company. The Connecticut Land Company was eager to capitalize on the influx of immigrants with money to spend on land and the promise of a new future. The Connecticut Land Company held a draft in 1814 to select shareholders in the Western

Reserve of Ohio. This particular strategy ensured that they would turn a handsome profit on the sale of the lands. One who entered the draft was General William Hart of Connecticut. General Hart drew the portion of land identified as Township 7, Range 17, and in 1815, General Hart sold the entire Township to two Englishmen from Sheffield, Massachusetts, Captains Jabez Burrell and John Day. They then formed a partnership with Captain Joshua Smith and some other New Englanders for the purpose of further sub-dividing the land. Many of those who came west to the Western Reserve to inspect their purchases also selected plots of land for themselves and their friends.

SHEFFIELD IS CARVED FROM THE WILDERNESS

In the fall of 1815, Captain Joshua Smith and his son set out for their new life in Sheffield with a wagon load of essential tools for clearing the forest land and building a cabin. For the next nine years many other English families followed them, and the thud of axes hitting green timber could be heard at every waking hour.

Log cabins were built to protect the settlers from the elements and large plots of land were cleared to plant crops to feed the ever increasing population. By no means was this an easy life, for flies and mosquitoes constantly harassed and stung the settlers. Many became ill from the affects of the insect bites, and many died as a result of the accompanying fever. Bears were always a danger as they prowled through the forests in their constant search for food. However, the hearty settlers pressed on and continued to build their community.

COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES ARE ESTABLISHED

The first Sawmill was erected by Captains Day and Burrell in 1817, and a log cabin school was built that same year. This was followed by the first distillery which was built in 1822 by Chester Wright. As more settlers moved into the area the demand for more food products increased. As a result, the first gristmill was built in 1824 by Charles Chaney. As to be expected, this beautiful area quickly filled up with

settlers as more forest land was cleared for farmland. Because of this rapid growth, Lorain County was established in 1824 and Sheffield became the first Township admitted to it. By 1833 there were 7,000 Catholics, 16 churches, and only 16 priests in the whole State of Ohio.

THE GERMANS ARRIVE

In 1840, a German immigrant named John Forster purchased 50 acres of land from Captain Aaron Root and thus became the first of many German immigrants to settle in the Sheffield area. By 1842 there were 20 Catholic settlers in the area who petitioned the Diocese of Cincinnati for the services of a Priest. By 1843, over 55 churches had been established in Ohio with 15 others in process. The number of priests had increased to 42, with 12 priests doing other than mission work.

THE MISSION FROM HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

In response to the German settlers request, a mission was established and services were initially provided by Father McLaughlin from Holy Trinity Church in East Avon. This created another problem in that he did not speak the German language. It was reported that in those early days services were held in the home of Johan Muller.

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FATHERS

In 1844, Father Francis de Sales Brunner brought a group of young men from Germany, Switzerland, Prussia, and Luxembourg for the purpose of establishing the Order of Precious Blood Fathers in this country. The place he chose to establish a seminary for the Society of Precious Blood was in Peru, Ohio. Because of his ability to speak the German language, his services were immediately requested by several German communities including Sheffield and French Creek (Avon). Because of the

distances and demand for a German speaking priest, Father Brunner could only make the rounds once every six to eight weeks to hold services.

THE FOUNDING OF SAINT TERESA OF AVILA CHURCH

By 1845 the number of church members had grown. The oldest document in the Parish Records is the "Rechnung Buch 1845-1875" which indicates the original twenty families numerically as follows: 1. Peter Laux; 2. Heinrich Schwarz; 3. Peter Schneider; 4. Mathias Schuller; 5. Johan Schuller; 6. Nichlaus Linnert; 7. Wilhelm Eiten; 8. Johan Laubenthal Jr; 9. Anton Kalz; 10. Johan Diedrich; 11. Johan Muller; 12. Joseph Tomas; 13. Jodokus Otto Jr; 14. Nichlaus Tannen; 15. Nichlaus Rothgeri; 16. Peter Rothgeri; 17. Peter Uhrig; 18. Widow Kelling; 19. Christian Merz; 20. Nichlaus Burkert. This list does differ somewhat from those contained in history books written around 1879. The reader must be made aware that church documents will always take precedence over commercially written material. In no way does this diminish the contributions made by the fine German families who joined the parish in the next few years following its establishment.

It has also been written in some history books that in 1845, a Father Peter Greist urged the Catholic community in Sheffield to form St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church. However, no priest by that name has ever been located in a search of diocesan records from either Cincinnati or Cleveland. A more plausible explanation stems from these facts. We know that Father Brunner was providing mission services to the Sheffield/Avon Catholic community during this time period. We also know that Father Brunner always brought several of his theology students with him. He was the only one qualified to instruct them, and would continue to teach them while they were traveling.

The records reflect that two of the young men studying theology with Father Brunner were brothers named Peter and Mathias Kreusch. Because of his youth and enthusiasm, it was probably Peter Kreusch who convinced the community to establish a church, along with a little assistance from Father Brunner of course. By looking at

the history written about Father Brunner prior to his coming to this country, we find that he often prayed to St. Teresa of Avila to get him through some of his most difficult times. One could then conclude that it was Peter Kreusch who convinced the community to found a church, and Father Brunner who suggested the church be named after of one of his favorite saints, Saint Teresa of Avila. We also know that in those early days the population was often afflicted with fevers which caused many to die. The parish prayed to Saint Teresa of Avila to spare them and promised to always remember and honor her on October 15 of each year. Regardless of who gets the credit, we are grateful that the Catholic community respond by pooling their resources and energy together to build a church.

THE LOG CHURCH

It was around 1845 that an acre of land was purchased from Aaron Root on the northwest corner of Conrad and Bennett Roads, the site of the present brick church. During this period in history the road we now call Highway 611 or Colorado Road was then known as "Conrad Road", and what we now call Abbe Road was then known as "Bennett Road." It was upon this site that the first church was built consisting of a log building measuring 24 X 30 feet. It is recorded in parish records that the first mass to be held in this church was performed in conjunction with its dedication on June 2, 1846 by Father McLaughlin. The first Trustees of St. Teresa Church were Johan Muller, Christian Merz, Peter Laux and Peter Schneider.

At this point in time, the Precious Blood Father that traveled to service the parish was Father Jacob Ringele. In 1847, Father Brunner joined his order with the newly established Diocese of Cleveland. Bishop Amadeus Rappe was appointed as the first bishop of Cleveland. Even though Father Ringele was transferred to the Diocese of Cleveland, he continued diligently to service St. Teresa Church. Father Ringele was then succeeded in 1850 by Father Mathias Kreusch.

THE FRAME CHURCH

By 1851, the parish had outgrown the original log church and made plans to build another one. A new frame church was built on the site of the original log cabin church, and was dedicated with the first mass being celebrated on Christmas Day, December 25, 1852. The church measured 40 X 60 feet and was built at a cost $1,500. Eventually, an additional acre of land was purchased adjacent to the original site and part of the land was used as a cemetery. The parish was attended by the Precious Blood Fathers as a mission from Immaculate Conception Parish of French Creek (now Avon).

THE MISSION PRIESTS

Father Kreusch was succeeded in 1851 by Father Peter Weber. His successor was Father John Van den Broeck in 1853. In 1854, Father Ringele returned to provide services to St. Teresa Church once again, but was replaced by Father Englebert Raff in 1855. The year 1856 saw the return of Father Mathias Kreusch who remained as the pastor until 1858. It has been written that Father Kreusch became very fond of exceptionally long sermons, and would often wake up his congregation by tinkling a small bell. This is the point in history that must be marked as the end of the mission services provided by the Precious Blood Fathers.

THE DIOCESAN PRIESTS

For the next several decades there was a steady procession of priests from the Diocese of Cleveland moving into and out of the parish. Several of these diocesan priests served at St. Teresa Church on more than one occasion. The first to serve in this capacity was Father Anton Kramer who came to the parish in 1858 to replace Father Kreusch. Father Amadeus Dambach, who was born in Baden, Germany, succeeded Father Kramer later that same year until he was replaced in 1860 by Father Eusebius Henzler.

Next came Father J.M. Roetzer in 1861, who was quickly succeeded in 1862 by Father Nicholas Schmitz. Father Schmitz remained the pastor from 1862 until 1870. His successor in 1870 was Father Charles Barbier who only remained at St. Teresa for a few months. Later that same year Father Barbier was replaced by Father Nicholas Hammang who remained pastor from 1870 until 1874. The new pastor from 1874 to 1876 was Father Jacob Heidegger. During this same time-frame, Father Dambach was serving as the pastor at St. Mary's in Avon. To fill the void left by Father Heidegger's departure, Father Dambach also provided services to St. Teresa as a mission. By 1881 there were approximately 55 families in the parish and the church property was valued at $4,000.

THE FIRST PERMANENT PASTOR

In 1881, Father Dambach left St. Mary's Church and returned as the first permanently appointed pastor of St. Teresa Church. He was succeeded in August 1883 by Father Dominic Zinsmayer, who was also born in Baden, Germany, and remained in charge until 1895. During the pastorate of Father Zinsmayer, two fine bells were purchased and the Church and Priest House were renovated.

THE FIRST BELLS OF ST. TERESA CHURCH

It has been recorded that Father Zinsmayer purchased two bells in 1885 at a cost of $282 from the Hy Stuckstede Bell and Foundry Company, St. Louis, Missouri. The smaller bell weighed approximately 184 pounds and the larger bell weighed approximately 800 pounds. A larger bell weighing approximately 1350 pounds was later purchased and blessed on February 1, 1886.

THE FIRST STATUES OF ST. TERESA CHURCH

The first known statues to be displayed at St. Teresa Church were statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. These beautiful statues were made in Raffl, France, and were donated to the parish by Father Zinsmayer in 1885. To give the new statues a suitable place to be displayed, two Side Altars with plain Gothic niches were purchased from the Faulhaber Company of Cleveland and erected by Mr. Horstmann.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The anniversary of the first fifty years of St. Teresa Church passed quietly as Father Zinsmayer was succeeded in 1895 by Father John H. Hennes. Father Hennes subsequently resigned in January 1897 and left the diocese. The parish was without a pastor from January to June of 1897, and Sheffield was again serviced from Avon until Father Charles Settele was appointed as the pastor in June 1897. Three months later, in September of 1897, ill health forced him to resign.

Father Settele remained in Sheffield until his death on March 19, 1898, and was laid to rest in St. Teresa Cemetery. As his replacement, Father Hennes was again received into the diocese and was re-appointed as the pastor in September 1897. Father Hennes was succeeded in March 1900 by Father A. Magenhann. He was followed on December 10, 1901 by the appointment of Father Philip A. Schritz as the pastor. Father Schritz celebrated his first mass as pastor on Sunday, December 14, 1901.

A TROUBLED YEAR

1904 will be remembered as a very tumultuous year for pastors as reflected in the parish records. Father Schritz left on February 17, 1904, and was replaced by Father John Bertemes. Unexpectedly on August 3, 1904, Father Bertemes was transferred to North Amherst, once again leaving the parish without a pastor.

Father Stuber, who was the pastor at St. Mary's, was pressed into service and attended to St. Teresa Church as a mission from August to December 1904. Finally on December 17, 1904, Father Francis J. Pfyl was sent here from Putnam County and was appointed as the pastor.

SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY

From the available records, one can conclude that some time prior to 1904, a terrible flu epidemic had hit the community. Believing strongly in the power of prayer, the parishioners offered a Novena to St. Joseph, praying that the parish would be spared. As a tribute to him for protecting the parish from the plague, they vowed to remember him on St. Joseph's Day. The parish records show that on March 22, 1904, St Joseph's Day was celebrated for the first time by the parishioners of St. Teresa Church and $5.60 was taken up at the collection. The records also show that during those years the average Sunday collection was only $1.60 for all masses. 1904 mercifully came to a close with the parishioners of St. Teresa Church having seen four different priests in charge of the parish throughout the year.

FIRE DESTROYS THE FRAME CHURCH

A tragic benchmark in the history of the parish was witnessed on Sunday, March 3, 1907, when the frame church was destroyed by a sweeping fire. The fire was actually started by a hot stove in the boys sacristy just as the announcements were being made during the 11 a.m. High Mass. The high winds that day helped the fire to get a good headway. At once, the work of saving the furniture and vestments began. All parishioners pitched in and began carrying the salvaged items over to the Priest House. Everything moveable was taken out of the church including the old pews and the organ. The parishioners witnessed this entire event in shock and horror, especially when the two bells crashed to the ground from the belfry. In an hour and a half the church was completely reduced to a pile of rubble and ashes and the bells had cracked from the heat and the fall from the belfry.

THE RED BRICK CHURCH IS BUILT

Although dismayed at the loss of their church, this undaunted, strong-willed parish community quickly rallied together. Masses continued to be celebrated that week at the Nicholas Kelling residence, which was located west of the Backpacker's Shop. Within the next week, the fire was settled by the two insurance companies for a total of $2,900, and the Parish Hall was made ready to hold services the following Sunday. Fortified with the same determination their ancestors displayed when they carved a Township out of the "Wilderness of the Western Reserve," the parishioners put their plan together. The final plan was to build a new church with a seating capacity of 250 people. This plan was approved by the bishop and rapidly executed. Although Father Pfyl became very ill with pneumonia during all of this excitement, the excavation of the foundation began in earnest on March 30, 1907. The cornerstone for a "Gothic" style brick church with sandstone trim was laid on May 19, 1907. The red bricks used for the construction of the church were kilned very near the church site and construction rapidly advanced.

Throughout the summer and fall months the construction progressed under the watchful eyes of Father Pfyl. Finally on Christmas Day, December 25, 1907, a standing-room-only crowd witnessed the first mass to be celebrated in the new church. From the ashes of despair, hope had sprung eternal as the parishioners admired their beautiful house of worship. Externally, the building measured 40 X 74 feet, and between the two towers the structure rose to a gabled roof, surmounted by a Latin Cross. A large square tower at the southeast corner housed the two new bells purchased to replace those ruined by the fire. The smaller bell weighs approximately 600 pounds and was cast with the name "St. Anne" on it. The larger bell weighs approximately 900 pounds and was cast with the name "St. Joseph" on it. These two fine bells were made in St. Louis, Missouri, by the Hy Stuckestede Bell and Foundry Company and were purchased for $792.95. The Stations of the Cross were fashioned in relief in sepia and gold. The main altar and side altars were constructed in the Ziegman barn by John Burkhart, a great-uncle to Edward Burkhart

and an uncle to Leroy Conrad. After construction they were painted white with gold trim. The choir loft at the rear of the church contained the pipe organ salvaged from the fire. On October 15, 1908, Father Pfyl went to the Streetcar Station in Lorain and met his Excellency Bishop Joseph M. Koudelka accompanied by Monsignor Dietz and Monsignor Wonderly. In a procession of 24 male pages and a mounted Honor Guard the guests were escorted to the Parsonage, while the bells of the new church were being rung. Also in attendance for this grand occasion were the former pastors, Father Zinsmayer and Father Bertemes. The stately new church was dedicated to God in honor of Saint Teresa of Avila in the presence of a huge crowd of people who had traveled near and far for this memorable event. The Bishop delivered the sermon in German and extended his gratitude to the parishioners for their sacrifices and generosity in building such a beautiful holy shrine. This High Mass was followed by the Confirmation Ceremony of 23 children and one adult convert. Following this ceremony was a large Chicken Supper which was always a favorite community gathering for members of the parish and surrounding neighborhoods. It is worth an honorable mention that on the day the church was dedicated, the bill for $11,800 was completely paid. Still suffering with his illness, Father Pfyl left on May 23, 1909, and was reassigned to the Providence Hospital in Sandusky. He was replaced by Father Adam Senger, who was appointed on June 3, 1909.

Father Senger recorded in the parish records on February 17, 1910, that this was the worst winter people could remember for many years. He went on to record that it had snowed every day since Christmas. On July 13, 1912, a bolt of lightning struck the church tower knocking some bricks off, but the boiler was not damaged. Shortly after this incident Father Senger had a lightning rod installed by Mr. A. Becker of Elyria for $130. From the time St. Teresa Church was founded in 1845 until 1914, the parishioners were almost exclusively German, but eventually ten different nationalities became represented. It was written about the parish in the History of Lorain County in 1916 "that the present membership comprises 45 families, and

although the number of members is smaller, the people have thrived and farms are larger. The good people who came first and laid the foundations for our present homes are gone. They braved the ocean's storms and the wilds of the forest, that we might enjoy the fruits of their labor. May God bless those who helped to prosper our German people and make Sheffield one grand home for the present generation."

In 1917 an additional acre of land was purchased from Conrad and Elizabeth Kelling in trade for two reserved burial plots and the sum of $100 and title transfer fees. Recorded in the parish records was an incident on March 28, 1919, that while leaving the church after Lenten Services, Margaritha Schwartz, the mother of our parishioner, Frances Blaha, took sick while passing the Priest House, came into the office and died. May God rest her soul! A statue of the Sacred Heart Of Mary was donated to the church by Mr. Matt Weber and Mrs. Mary Weber, and was blessed and dedicated on November 9, 1919. Father Senger writes "we now have the Sacred Heart of Mary opposite the Sacred Heart of Jesus as it should be." In April of 1920, the northeastern part of Sheffield Township was incorporated as Sheffield Lake Village.

THE RELICS OF SAINT TERESA AND SAINT CLEMENT

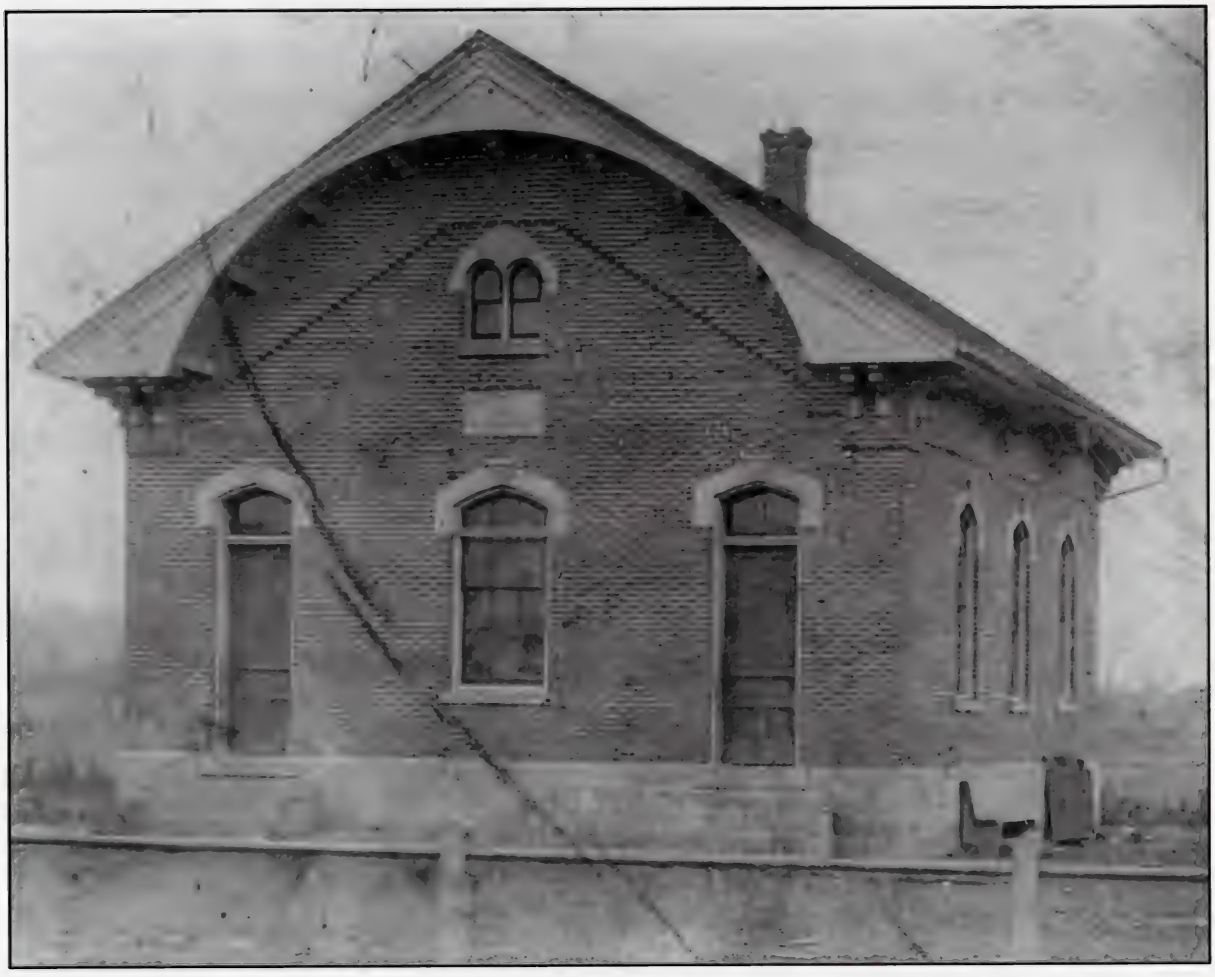
On December 29, 1920, Father Senger had acquired an authenticated relic of Saint Teresa and Saint Clement. This relic came from the Carmelite Monastery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, through the Rector of the Saint Francis Seminary, the Reverend Monsignor Dr. Breig. Father Senger petitioned Bishop Farrelly of Cleveland for permission to expose the relic for public veneration. Permission was granted by the bishop on January 10, 1921.

THE EXPLOSION

Father Senger also recorded in the parish records that on June 25, 1921, Mike Webber was killed instantly while blasting stones on B. Jungbluth's Farm. Father

Senger describes it by writing "He was blown up in the air higher than a telephone pole nearby, while attempting to ascertain whether the fuse was burning. He was a member of St. Mary's Church, but was working and boarding around here for a number of weeks." May God rest his soul!

ST. TERESA AS A CATHOLIC PAROCHIAL SCHOOL



In 1922, the majority of the townspeople voted for a centralized school. Father Senger and the Parish Council decided to open a Catholic Parochial School for children of the parish. The plan was to buy District School 7, which was located across the road, and east of the Priest House. As you will read in the section describing the School and Other Buildings, this was quite an accomplishment for the parish. Also during 1922, Father Senger negotiated the purchase of a beautiful old organ from St. Joseph's Church in Lorain, which had previously belonged to St. Mary's Church in Sandusky. A new organ of equally superior quality, craftsmanship, and type, with wood and zinc pipes, would easily cost around $4,000 if purchased new. However, Father Senger was able to purchase this particular organ for only $200. Had Father Senger not chosen the priesthood, he probably could have been very successful as a horse trader.

THE RELIC OF SAINT FRIDOLIN

In October 1923, Father Senger was able to obtain a relic of St. Fridolin of Sackingen, (Baden), Germany, which is near the town of Frieburg. This relic was given to the parish as a gift by Father Louis Herr, the pastor of St. Fridolin's Church. Father Herr had visited here in 1921 when he was collecting donations for an orphanage house and was overwhelmed by the generosity of the German people from the parish. The relic was authenticated by the Archbishop of Baden, Germany, and was kept in the parish safe in the Priest House. Bishop Schrembs gave permission for public veneration of the relic, and on March 6, 1924, St Fridolin's Day, a Novena of prayers was offered in his honor.

Section One

THE TORNADO

On Saturday, June 28, 1924, at around 5:30 p.m., a tornado passed through Sheffield. This same tornado had wreaked considerable damage in Sandusky, Huron, Lorain, Akron, and Youngstown. In Lorain, the tornado destroyed 200 homes and damaged an additional 600. Additionally, the entire business section on Broadway was completely wrecked. Among the wreckage were St. Mary Church and Parish House in Lorain, and Holy Trinity Church and Priest House in East Avon. St. Teresa Church was fortunate, as it only suffered minor damage when the steps to the boy's sacristy were blown away and some trees were damaged. Also, some shingles and part of the ridge on the garage and part of the ridge on the school were blown off.

However, among the people of this parish, many suffered heavy losses. The house of Joseph Wolf collapsed and his baby was killed. The old homestead of N.W. Kelling, inhabited by Steve Szabo, was blown away. The family was hurt, but not too seriously. Additionally, six houses of parish families were destroyed and several others were damaged, and eight barns of parish members either collapsed or were blown away. Also, many other small barns, horse sheds and garages were severally damaged as well. The day after the storm, the Reverend Father Francis Peter Bungart celebrated his first Solemn Mass. Father Bungart was the first member of the parish to become a priest. He was ordained in St. Louis, Missouri on June 24, 1924 as a Jesuit Priest of the Society of Jesus. In November of 1924, the bishop requested an appraisal of the church property. The church, and parish buildings, and approximately 5 acres of land were estimated to be worth $59,500. A statue of the Blessed Mother of Sorrows was donated to the church by Mrs. Anna Born and was blessed and dedicated on May 13, 1925.

THE GOOD WITH THE BAD

April 24, 1926 was marked as an especially significant day as the parish buildings received electricity for the first time. It should be noted the month of December, 1928, was marked as another tragic moment in the history of the parish when a flu epidemic broke out and five parish members died from the illness. This carried over into 1929, which was a particularly bad year because of a severe drought and high unemployment. To provide some assistance, the parish formed a chapter of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society to help those in the parish who needed food and clothing. This was a typical response to a desperate situation by this close knit congregation as they believed in taking care of their own.

THE TOWNSHIP SPLITS

On October 18, 1933, the farmers in the southern half of Sheffield voted to separate from Sheffield Lake Village by an almost unanimous vote. Sheffield Lake Village, which had existed for about 12 years, was divided. For some unknown reason, this particular time period coincided with the approximate dates for the start and stop of prohibition. According to the law, the separatists would have to return to Township status. Subsequently, on December 9, 1933, the same farmers who had voted to separate from Sheffield Lake Village, voted to incorporate their area as Sheffield Village Township.

The original Sheffield was now divided as Sheffield Township, Sheffield Lake Village, Brookside Township, and Sheffield Village Township. The official life of Sheffield Village Township has been recorded in the parish records as starting on January 1, 1934. It was at this time that the roads were given new names; Bennett Road became Abbe Road, and Conrad Road became Colorado Road. Father Senger recorded in the parish records on February 26, 1934, that since the parish was first founded, 978 baptisms had been performed (237 by Father Senger), and 214 marriages had been performed (70 by Father Senger). It was also recorded that four weddings were conducted during the month of December, 1934. At the Midnight

Mass on Christmas Eve of 1934, the church was filled to overflowing. After the mass Father Senger recorded in the parish records "Where do all these people come from? Good times are coming!"

GIFTS ARE RECEIVED

On February 18, 1935, a statue of the Miraculous Child Jesus of Prague was donated by Miss Anna Heiland and blessed by the pastor on February 24, 1935. This was followed by the donation of "The Crucifix in the Arch" by Lawrence and Mary Hechel of Avon. This beautiful cross was blessed by Father Pfyl on March 13, 1935. The sermon was given that day by Father Stuber of St. Mary of Avon.

THE DEATH OF OUR BELOVED FATHER SENGER

After reverently and faithfully serving the parishioners of St. Teresa Church through tornadoes and long hard winters; through flu epidemics that killed many; through the bad times during the depression years; and, finally just as better times were close at hand, Father Senger died on March 31, 1941. He was buried on April 3, 1941, in St. Teresa Cemetery after almost 32 years of dedicated service, having been a shining beacon and guiding light in the parish for everyone to follow. The new pastor selected to replace him was Father Joseph Eiringer who was appointed by the bishop on June 12, 1941.

THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Father Eiringer was instrumental in redecorating the church for the One Hundredth Anniversary celebration in 1945. The church, altars, statues, etc. were thoroughly cleaned. The florist decorated the church with palms, ferns, yellow and white chrysanthemums and papal colors of yellow and white bunting was hung by the councilmen. The church was overflowing with former and present parishioners. There were twelve priests and three Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Mary Corrine, Sister Mary St. Martha and Sister Mary Francelia. Two sons of the parish, Rev. Francis Bungart S.J. of St. Francis Xavier's Parish in Cincinnati and Rev. John Schwartz of St. Agnes Parish in Cleveland, assisted Rev. Joseph Eiringer in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary. Father Eiringer wore a new set of vestments. The male choir of St. Mary Avon sang the Solemn High Mass and the Rev. Father Bungart S.J. delivered the sermon. He spoke of the history of the Parish. After Mass the congregation participated in signing the "Hymn to Saint Teresa."

Afterwards, the twelve priests and the parishioners attended the banquet in the Parish Hall. Father John Schwartz was the toastmaster and speakers were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William L. Newton, Elyria; the Rev. George N. Stuber, Avon; Professor A.A. Bungart of John Carroll University (the brother of Rev. Father Bungart who reviewed the early history of St. Teresa Church); Mayor C.B. McAllister of Sheffield; and Mayor William Holly of Sheffield Lake. Despite the all-day rain, more than 500 chicken dinners were served during the festivities.

THE BEGINNING OF EXPANSION

On June 5, 1950, Mr. and Mrs. George Grell of Sheffield Lake requested the Bishop's Office to look into establishing a parish in Sheffield Lake. There were over 200 Catholic families living in Sheffield Lake. Father Eiringer served as the pastor until he was transferred in 1955. It must be said of Father Eiringer that he is remembered today, not only for his pulpit exhortations where he seeded spiritual kernels in the souls of his listeners, but also what he planted in the soil of St. Teresa parish grounds by way of fruits, flowers, shrubs, and trees.

On September 1, 1955, Father Raymond J. Grismer was appointed Pastor of St. Teresa Church. Soon after assuming the duties of Pastor, Father Grismer purchased 25 acres of land located on the northeast corner of Oster and Harris Roads in Sheffield Lake for parish development. On June 7, 1956, Father Eugene G. Karch was appointed Assistant Pastor. A total of 315 families were members of St. Teresa Parish in 1955 as records show 125 families living in Sheffield Village and 190 families living in Sheffield Lake. Masses were held at 6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. with people standing in the aisles during the last two Masses.

By 1957, there were 439 families registered at St. Teresa Church. The North Section reflected 380 families living there, while 131 families were recorded as living in the South Section. The North Section was bounded by Lake Erie on the North, Avon Lake on the East, Lorain on the West and the Nickel Plate Railroad on the South. The balance of Sheffield Village comprised the South Section. More than 500 new homes were under construction in Sheffield Lake and another 500 homes were in the planning stage with construction to begin within the next six months.

Five Sunday Masses were held--three at St. Teresa Church, with a seating capacity of 210, and two at the new school building in Sheffield Lake, with a seating capacity of 250. St. Teresa Church had a total of 505 families registered by 1960, with 383 living in the North Section and 122 living in the South Section. In addition there were approximately 100 families living within St. Teresa boundaries that attended neighboring parishes because of overcrowded Masses. Baptisms at St.

Teresa Church reflected the continued growth of the parish community. Baptisms were as follows: 1955 - 55 baptisms, 1956 - 62 baptisms, 1957 - 93 baptisms, 1958 - 101 baptisms, 1959 - 96 baptisms, and 1960 - 57 baptisms were recorded for the first six months.

THE MISSION OF ST. THOMAS

On December 1, 1960, a Decree was issued by the Diocese of Cleveland establishing the Mission of St. Thomas as of December 21, 1960. By 1962, the parish had grown from 55 families in 1879 to over 700 families. For the present time, the area remained an integral part of the parish of St. Teresa Church and Father Grismer was responsible for the development of parochial facilities of the Mission of St. Thomas. On June 14, 1962 the Mission of St. Thomas became the Parish of St. Thomas the Apostle.

THE YEARS SINCE THE SPLIT OF THE PARISH

After the Mission of St. Thomas became the Parish of St. Thomas the number of families in St. Teresa Parish declined to approximately 120 families. Father John Walker was appointed Pastor of St. Teresa in 1974 upon the retirement of Father Grismer as Pastor. During Father Walker's pastorate, the parish life continued to flourish and improvements were made despite the low number of households. Among the achievements were the beautification of the parish grounds. Father Walker spent a great deal of time personally in laying out flower beds and planting trees and special shrubs.

The old Sisters' residence was transformed into a residence for some of the elderly. This project continued until the residence had to be razed. A Carillon was installed in the bell tower. While the regular bells are still rung each Sunday in a call to worship, the Carillons offer hourly tolling during the day and the ringing of the "Angelus" as noon and 6:00 p.m. hours. Hymns can be played for special occasions

and seasons. A new organ was purchased and installed, adding to the beauty of our ministry of music during Mass and other religious services.

For a period of time under Father Walker's initiative, the old parish hall was put to use for the "Lakeshore Players" which added a cultural dimension in the arts to St. Teresa Parish. This continued until the hall had to be razed.

The liturgical renewal received impetus from Father Walker by his support of contemporary music which still has a special place in our week-end liturgies. This contributes to the wonderful balance of "new and old" in our music ministry. When the number of boy servers available dropped to a point where they could not meet the needs of acolytes needed for religious services, Father Walker introduced girl servers to assist in the special ministry. He also introduced the ministries of Reader and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist which were open to both men and women in the parish. Our parish benefits from these pioneer and difficult decisions to the present day. They are now considered ordinary practice in the life of our parish. When Father Walker's health began to fail, he accepted early retirement in the spring of 1988. He presently lives in retirement in Dallas, Texas.

Father Joseph Mach was appointed pastor in June of 1988. While Father's pastorate was short due to his early death in December, 1989, he set in motion the beginnings of the changes which were to take place in the 1990's. Father Mach updated our cemetery records. He began plans to renovate the beautiful stain-glass windows in our church and began preliminary planning for a multi-purpose center

which would help meet the social, administrative and educational needs of our parish. The former project was completed in 1991. With the completion of the reconstruction of State Routes 611 (Colorado Avenue) and 301 (Abbe Road), new impetus must now be given to carrying out of Father Mach's vision.

During this same time period the parish also lost several important buildings. The Convent House was torn down along with the Parish Hall in the mid 1980's. Additionally, the old red brick schoolhouse was razed in 1987. Besides losing many parishioners during this same time period, the parish also lost its ability to conduct its own religious education classes and for holding its own fund raising events on the parish grounds. However, the most important loss was the capability for the Parish Family to gather as one and socialize. Gone are the famous chicken dinners and strawberry festivals. Gone are the ham and bean dinners, harvest festivals, and ice cream socials. Gone are the children's plays, talent shows, and the Arts and Crafts shows. Gone, but not forgotten.

The number of families fluctuated between 120 and 160 families from the split of the Parish until the beginning of the 1990's. Many felt that the demise of St. Teresa Church as a parish was eminent. But just as this parish overcame the adversity of losing the white frame church to the fire in 1907, it has arisen from the "ashes of despair" and has found new life. Father Luca was appointed Pastor in January, 1990. Since Father Luca became Pastor there has been a slow but steady increase in the number of families in the parish. As of July 1995, the number of families registered at St. Teresa Church has risen to approximately 338 households. At Father Luca's request, Sister M. Floranne Yatsko, S.N.D., was assigned on a part-time basis as an Associate Pastoral Minister to assist with the growing needs of the parish. Sister Floranne visits the sick and elderly, conducts a craft class for those interested, and assists Father Luca by working with the Lectors and Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Sister's coming in 1991 re-establishes the close link and bond between Saint Teresa Parish and the Sisters of Notre Dame.

The magic that transforms a group of individual parishioners into a "parish community" can only be attained by frequent social interaction between one another. For this to happen once again, adequate facilities need to be built. As this 150th Anniversary Celebration commences, all parishioners must consider the possibility of providing a Parish Family Center so that current and future generations may feel the same sense of "Parish Community" and experience the same enjoyment felt by our forefathers.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In early 1994, an Anniversary Planning Committee was formed under the direction of Father Edward J. Luca, JCD, Pastor of St. Teresa Church since 1990. Various sub-committees were commissioned to ensure completion of the numerous tasks associated with such a memorable event. On October 15, 1995, Bishop A. James Quinn will be the celebrant at our Patronal Feast Mass. On October 15, 16, and 17, evening services will be conducted by Sister Margaret Marszal, H.M. Sr. Marszal is a sister of the Humility of Mary. She has taught Art and Religious Education on the elementary and secondary levels. She has given retreats and reflection days to adults on Contemplative Prayer and the Christian Mystics in both the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses. Her favorite topic is speaking on St. Teresa of Avila. As Sister Margaret says, "St. Teresa offers guidelines on how to be 'centered' in 20th Century 'craziness.'" On October 18, 19, and 20, evening services will be conducted by Rev. Leon J. Flaherty, C.PP.S. Father Flaherty is a Missionary of the Precious Blood. He was ordained in 1961. His past ministries include sixteen years of seminary formation work, five years on the retreat team at Maria Stein Center, Maria Stein, Ohio, and six years on the international government of the Society of the Precious Blood. Bishop Anthony M. Pilla will be the celebrant at our Sesquicentennial Mass on Sunday, October 22. Thereafter, a celebration dinner will be held at Tom's Country Place in Avon.

THE LOG SCHOOL HOUSE

The parish built a school house in 1845, which was a log house located in the southwest corner of what is now the cemetery. School was held there for only a few years, with Peter Laux serving as the Teacher.

THE RED BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE

The Red Brick School House was originally built in 1880, was identified as District School Number 7, and was owned by the Sheffield Township. The children attended classes in District School Number 7, which was located opposite the Priest House. Classes were taught primarily by Catholic Lay Teachers or the pastor. This was a Public School in name only as classes were taught by three Sisters of Notre Dame from September 1898 to June 1900. The utilization of the building and the use of the Sisters as teachers was with the full knowledge and consent of the Directors of the Sheffield Township Schools. No public monies were being used as the Sisters teaching salaries were being paid for by the parish members. The one room school house contained first through eighth grades.

THE CATHOLIC PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

In 1902 and 1903, Father Schritz proceeded to maintain the red brick school house as a Catholic Parochial School with classes once again taught by two Sisters of Notre Dame. One of its early teachers after the Sisters of Notre Dame left was Mr. Herman H. Plas. He taught all eight grades and managed to keep order in all of them. Mr. Plas taught at the eight grade school for fourteen years. In 1922, the majority of the Township voted for a centralized school. Father Senger and the parish councilmen decided to open a Catholic Parochial School as soon as the centralized school opened. The plan was to buy District School Number 7 and add a hallway and additional rooms. To provide funding for this project, Pew Rents were raised from $8 to $10 per year and a monthly collection was introduced. The Superintendent of Public Schools discontinued the use of District School Number 7 even before the centralized school was finished and allowed the parish to use the

school building rent free. On September 5, 1922, the first day of class as a Catholic parochial school was celebrated. Mr. Plas was rehired to become a Parochial Teacher and remained in this position from 1922 until 1927.

THE REMODELED SCHOOL BUILDING

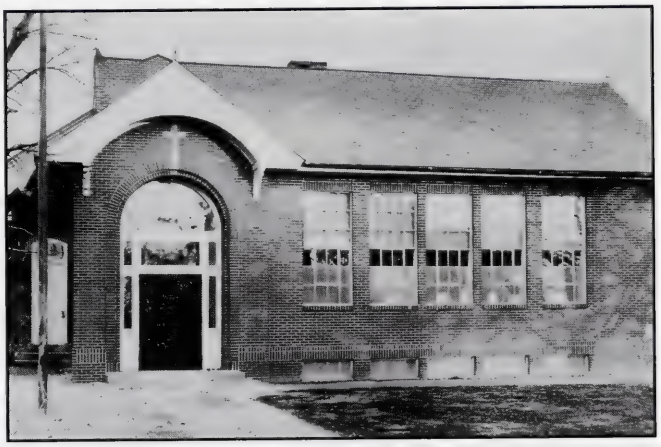
In 1924 the building was purchased from the Township School Board by St. Teresa Church for $100. On June 12, 1927 the cornerstone for this project was laid in place by Monsignor Phyl, the former pastor. A large addition consisting of an additional classroom with furniture, two corridors, and a basement were added in 1927. The new part formed the right front wing as you faced the school. Peter Deitz of Lorain served as the general contractor and the architect was Paul Rissman of Lorain. The cost of the addition was $9,631.72 and the furniture added an additional $990.73.

THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

During these years, Father Senger, repeatedly asked the Bishop for Sisters, but was unable to obtain Sisters to teach at the school. In 1926 Mother Mary Caecilia, Mother Mary Antonie and Sister Superior, Mary Evarista came to see the school. Sister Superior, Mary Evarista, promised to send Sisters to teach at the school as soon as some became available. On August 25, 1927, one of the farmers from the community brought Sister Mary Celestia, Sister Mary Emerita and Sister Mary Marita to Sheffield Village to teach at the school. Of the three Sisters of Notre Dame that had arrived, two were to serve as teachers and the third was to serve as the cook. The Sisters were quite impressed with their newly remodeled and modernized convent that had formerly been the Teacher's Residence.

DEDICATION OF THE REMODELED SCHOOL BUILDING

The school opened on September 9, 1927 with an initial enrollment of 64 pupils. The school was dedicated by Bishop Joseph Schrembs on October 15, 1927. After the dedication, a Patronal Feast was celebrated in honor of Saint Teresa of



Avila, our Patron Saint. The Sisters described the children as "affectionate, docile, simple farm children, whose unspoiled nature promises future religious vocations." Arrangements were made by the school board and the parents to have the children transported to school on the public school bus. The school children sang their first High Mass and Father Reichlin was the celebrant of the Solemn High Mass. The first year was quite busy, with 20 children receiving First Holy Communion on the second Sunday after the Easter of 1928. Three boys and four girls were the first to graduate from the Eighth grade on May 27, 1928.

TEN YEARS LATER (1937)

Sister Mary Manuella, Sister Mary Harold and Sister Mary Nathalis were assigned to teach at the school. Sister Mary Harold taught grades One, Two, Three, and Four. Sister Mary Manuella served as the Local Superior and also taught grades Five, Six, Seven, and Eight. Sister Mary Nathalis was in charge of the kitchen. School opened September 7, 1937, with 59 pupils, 36 boys and 23 girls. Few students attended classes in January and February because of several infectious colds and an outbreak of mumps. On April 24, 1938, ten children made their First Holy Communion. There were three girls and seven boys. On May 26, 1938, three boys and one girl graduated from the Eighth grade.

TWENTY YEARS LATER (1947)

Sister Mary Blandine and Sister Mary Lancitia taught at the school. Sister Sophy was in charge of the domestic work. Sister Mary Blandine taught grades One, Two, Three, and Four, and Sister Mary Lancitia taught grades Five, Six, Seven,

and Eight. One hundred ten students were enrolled at the school, 47 boys and 63 girls. In addition, 27 students attended Sunday Catechism classes. For the first time since the school opened, a basketball team was organized with Patrick Grady, a member of the Holy Name Society, as the first coach. The team won a trophy the very first year, after winning second place in the league. On March 7, 1948, four children received First Holy Communion at the 8:00 a.m. Mass, prior to the confirmation ceremony. At 3:00 p.m. Bishop Floyd Begin administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 37 students of St. Teresa School, 11 public school children and seven adults. First Holy Communion was celebrated by eight boys and seven girls on May 9, 1948. Five Eighth grade girls took the entrance examination to St. Mary's High School in Lorain. Jean Blaha (Ackerman) won a full year scholarship and all the other girls were accepted. On May 23, 1948, 16 children, six boys and ten girls, graduated from the Eighth grade.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER (1952)

School opened on September 2, 1952, with an unexpected increase in enrollment. One Hundred sixty-five students were enrolled, 83 boys and 82 boys. Five public school students were taught in Catechism classes on Saturdays. Sister Mary Lancitia, Sister Mary Blandine, Sister Mary Sophy and Sister Mary Joanette were assigned to teach at St. Teresa School. Sister Blandine taught grades One and Two, while Sister Joanette taught grades Three, Four, and Five. Sister Mary Lancitia served as the Local Superior, Principal and also taught grades Six, Seven, and Eight.

Sister Sophy was in charge of the domestic work, cleaning and cooking. In February, Mr. John Ferner installed paper towel racks and soap dispensers in the boys and girls washrooms. Prior to this time, each child had to provide his own soap and towels.

During the year a new wing was added to the school containing two additional classrooms, two washrooms, a utility room, store room, principal's office, boiler room, and two hallways. On April 15, 1953, Bishop Edward Hoban confirmed 25 boys, 35 girls and two adults. Twenty-two children received First Holy Communion at the 8:00 a.m. Mass on May 17, 1953. There were eleven boys, ten girls and one boy from the public school. Twenty-two students, 11 girls and 11 boys, graduated from the Eighth grade on May 24, 1953.

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS LATER (1955)

On September 4, 1955, Father Raymond J. Grismer was installed as the new pastor of St. Teresa Church and was therefore responsible for the operation of the school. Records show St. Teresa School had 82 children from the Village and 138 children from the Lake district, a ratio of 40% to 60%. At this time, public school standards would dictate that St. Teresa School would have a normal capacity of 120 children. Enrollment had reached 220 pupils and Father Grismer anticipated another 50 to 75 pupils to be enrolled in September because of the rapid growth in Sheffield Lake.

As neither the Village nor the Lake could stand any separate development of school facilities, a combined effort to meet the needs was undertaken. Plans were made to build a new building, at a cost of $125,000 on the recently acquired parcel of land in Sheffield Lake. Consideration was given to the Sheffield Lake site for the following reasons: the rapid construction of homes, more children lived in Sheffield Lake than in Sheffield Village, and natural gas and city water were available with sanitary sewers being planned in the near future.

Sister Mary Blandine took over as the Local Superior, Principal and taught grades One and Two. Mrs. Fred Courtright and Mrs. Sylvester Gallagher taught

grades Three and Four. Sister Mary Benedicte taught grades Five and Six and Sister Mary Leonelle taught grades Seven and Eight. Sister Mary Sophy remained in charge of domestic work, cleaning and cooking. Thirty public school children were taught Christian Doctrine classes on Saturdays. Thirty-seven children from St. Teresa School, 23 boys and 14 girls, and four children from public school received First Holy Communion on May 13, 1956. This year marked the first year that the Eighth grade graduates received their diplomas in church. On May 20, 1956, 18 students, nine girls and nine boys, graduated from St. Teresa School and celebrated the same at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

TWENTY-NINE YEARS LATER (1956)

In May of 1956, ground was broke for the new school building in Sheffield Lake. The building was designed to provide space for four classrooms, but two of the classrooms could be used for Sunday Mass and a meeting place. One classroom in the new facility was for the First and Second grades and the second classroom was for the Third and Fourth grades. St. Teresa School would handle the rest of the children in the present building in the Village, with a supplementary First and Second grade.

Sister Mary Blandine, Sister Mary Benedicte, Sister Mary Leonelle and Sister Mary Sophy returned to St. Teresa School. Mrs. James Irwin taught grade One, while Sister Mary Blandine served as the Local Superior, Principal and also taught grade Two and thirteen boys from grade Three. Mrs. Fred Courtright taught grades Three and Four, while Sister Mary Benedicte taught grades Five and Six. Sister Mary Leonelle taught grades Seven and Eight. Sister Mary Sophy continued to be in charge of domestic work. There were 242 students, 123 boys and 119 girls enrolled at St. Teresa School. In addition, 33 students were taught Christian Doctrine in classes on Saturdays. On April 11, 1957, 67 students, 29 boys and 26 girls from St. Teresa School, six boys and five girls from the public school, and three men and seven women received the sacrament of Confirmation administered by Bishop Floyd Begin.

Fifty-three children, 25 boys and 24 girls from St. Teresa School and one boy and three girls from the public school received their First Communion on May 19, 1957. On June 2, 1957, seven boys and thirteen girls graduated from the Eighth grade and received their diplomas after 9:30 High Mass. The first part of the three-section school building in Sheffield Lake was blessed on July 14, 1957. Masses were held at 11:00 a.m. and noon in the new school building.

THIRTY YEARS LATER (1957)

In 1957, four Sisters and two lay teachers taught at St. Teresa School. Sister Mary Blandine served as the Local Superior, Principal, and also taught First grade. Sister Mary Raymond taught Second grade while Mrs. Leo Marlewski taught grade Three. Mrs. Fred Courtright taught grade Four and Sister Mary Julie Anne taught grades Five and Six. Sister Mary Robertine taught grades Seven and Eight, and Sister Mary Sophy remained in charge of the kitchen. Two hundred ninety-two pupils were enrolled, 134 girls and 158 boys. Forty-six public school children attended Catechism classes on Saturdays. When the September 1957 semester started, the First, Second and Third grades moved into the new school building in Sheffield Lake. Both schools were staffed by a total of four Sisters of Notre Dame and two lay teachers. Two Sisters were taken back and forth by automobile daily from St. Teresa Convent to the new school in Sheffield Lake. On December 15, 1957, an open house was held at both schools. This was the first time an open house was held since the establishment of St. Teresa School. On May 11, 1958, 48 children received their First Holy Communion, 19 boys and 21 girls from St. Teresa School and four boys and four girls from the public school. Twenty students graduated from the Eighth grade at St. Teresa School and received their diplomas at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS LATER (1962)

Six Sisters and three lay-teachers were employed as a result of the affiliation with St. Teresa - St. Thomas School in 1962. Sister Mary Rose Crucis taught grade

One and Sister Mary Claudia taught grade Two. Mrs. Leo Marlewski taught grade Three while Mrs. Fred Courtright taught grade Four. And Sister Mary Seraphim taught grade Five with Miss Frances Verouse teaching grade Six. Additionally, Sister Mary Lancitia taught grade Seven and Sister Mary Veronica served concurrently as the Local Superior, Principal, and also taught grade Eight. Sister Mary Sophy remained in charge of the kitchen. There were 343 children enrolled as pupils of St. Teresa - St. Thomas School, 163 girls and 153 boys. In addition, there were 161 pupils enrolled in Catechetical classes, 84 girls and 77 boys. Grades One, Two, Three, and Seven were taught at the school location on Harris Road and grades Four, Five, Six and Eight were taught at the school location on Abbe Road.

The first National Catholic School Week commenced October 18, 1962, and an open house was held at both schools. On February 23, 1963, at St. Thomas Church Hall, Bishop Clarence E. Elwell conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on a combined total of 124 children from St. Teresa - St. Thomas School. On May 5, 1963, five boys and five girls of St. Teresa Church received their First Holy Communion at the 8:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by Father Grismer. On May 12, 1963, 68 children of St. Thomas Church received their First Holy Communion in their own parish church with Father Reichlin as the celebrant. The Eighth grade graduating class of 31 students received their diplomas on June 2, 1963, at the 8:00 a.m. High Mass in St. Teresa Church. Father Reichlin delivered the sermon and presented the graduates; Father Grismer conferred the diplomas. It should be noted that on June 9, 1963, St. Thomas Mission had been proclaimed an independent Parish with Father Urban Reichlin as Pastor. There was great concern voiced by all parishioners as to whether one school operating in two locations could continue to function effectively.

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS LATER (1964)

With the school year beginning in September of 1964, there was a complete separation between St. Teresa School and St. Thomas School. During this school year, three Sisters and two lay-teachers taught at St. Teresa School. Mrs. Rita Ferenec taught grades One and Two and Sister Mary St. Luke taught grades Three

and Four. Mrs. Fred Courtright taught grades Five and Six, and Sister Mary St. James served concurrently as the Local Superior and Principal while also teaching grades Seven and Eight. Sister Mary Sophy was still in charge of the kitchen. There were 94 pupils enrolled in St. Teresa School, 50 girls and 44 boys, with 22 students attending catechism classes. St. Thomas School opened with 351 children in grades One to Eight. On March 7, 1965, Bishop John F. Whealon gave the Sacrament of Confirmation to 39 children of St. Teresa School. This was the first Confirmation ceremony performed in English. On May 9, 1965, 16 children made their First Holy Communion, four boys and eight girls from St. Teresa School and four boys from public school.

On May 30, 1965, the Eighth grade graduation of St. Teresa School was celebrated at Mass. It should be noted that the diocese had requested that the Eighth grade graduations be done away with. Nine graduates received their diplomas at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. In August the Sisters teaching at St. Thomas School moved from the convent they shared with the Sisters teaching at St. Teresa School and moved into their own convent.

THE LAST YEAR: (1966-1967)

Three Sisters returned to St. Teresa School for the opening of school in 1966. Mrs. Rita Ferenec taught grades One and Two and Sister Mary Denise taught the Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades. Sister Mary St. James returned as the Local Superior and Principal, and also taught the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grades. Sister Mary Jacqueline served as the cook and also taught the Intermediate Confraternity Class.

The School and Other Buildings

With the opening of school on September 7, 1966, there were 70 students enrolled at St. Teresa School, 40 girls and 30 boys. Since enrollment had dropped considerably, grades One and Two were in one room; grades Three, Four and Five were in one room; and grades Six, Seven and Eight were in one room. On April 20, 1967, the two Pastors and principals of St. Thomas School and St. Teresa School met with Monsignor McHale to see if a solution could be found to relieve the three grades in one room situation at St. Teresa School. It was decided the following school year that the children from St. Teresa School would attend St. Thomas School. Since St. Thomas School needed more classrooms, they could use St. Teresa School building for their two First and Second grade classes. The Sisters would all live at St. Thomas Convent, and therefore St. Teresa Convent would not be used. The last class to make its First Holy Communion was on May 14, 1966. Nineteen children received First Communion, ten children from St. Teresa School and nine children from the Confraternity classes. Five graduates received a Certificate on June 2, 1966.

AUGUST 1, 1987

For many, the date of August 1, 1987, will remain forever etched upon their hearts. On that date, the building in which so many memories were created, was razed to make way for a parking lot. Fortunately, you cannot tear down memories. On August 10, 1987, the Chronicle-Telegram ran an article titled "History, memories come down with St. Teresa School"

"LANDMARK DEMOLISHED -The old St. Teresa School on Abbe Road came down last week and so went a great deal of history with it. For Gladys Wisnieski, a member of the parish for 59 years, the school carried many memories. In 1919, her sister

attended the school, which until 1927 housed grades 1-4 in a one-room building. Wisnieski also attended the school, which was built as a public school. The building later became a Catholic school, according to Wisnieski. By 1927, the school expanded to eighth grade and by 1950 the final addition was built. The school's attendance declined when children began attending Sheffield Lake's St. Thomas School on Harris Road. Next to the church school was the church hall, which was leveled earlier last week. The buildings were leveled for parking. Traffic along Colorado Avenue and parishioners parking alongside the road created a need for a parking lot."

THE PARISH AUDITORIUM AND SCHOOL HALL

The parish had its own Auditorium and School Hall constructed in 1899-1900. It was a simple frame building put up by the councilmen while Father Hennes was the pastor. On November 20, 1909, the parish councilmen deeded the building and one-half acre of land to Bishop Farrely. By 1917 the roof was replaced with new shingles. In 1923 the Hall was remodeled with the addition of a kitchen and a stage that could seat 56 people. Additionally, a much needed foundation was added underneath the Hall for support. In March 1926, a ceiling was added to the Hall and sidewalks were constructed, with all labor and material donated by the parishioners. It should be noted that for many years a Chicken Dinner was held in the Parish Auditorium after the celebration of a mass on October 15 in honor of our Patron Saint, Saint Teresa

of Avila. Parishioners, former parishioners, family, friends and the general public came from miles around to partake in this celebration, watch the entertainment usually provided by the school children, and eat a fine chicken dinner. In addition to being an annual Fund Raiser, it was an opportunity to visit friends, neighbors, and family members in a very delightful atmosphere. The community spirit was welcomed by all and the usual recording in the parish records was "a good time was had by all." That community spirit disappeared when the old building was leveled in 1987. Perhaps someday that community spirit can be revived if a new Parish Family Center could be built. Imagine if you will, just one more of those glorious old-fashioned chicken dinners followed by a piece of homemade apple pie. Wouldn't it be nice to have just one more of those glorious Strawberry Festivals that St. Teresa's was famous for? Ahhh!

THE TEACHERS/SISTERS RESIDENCE

In the spring of 1909, the parish councilmen purchased a one-half acre plot of land. The parish records indicate that the Teacher's Residence was then built upon it for the sum of $2,120.05. The land was deeded to Bishop Farrely by the parish councilmen in October 1909. A bad storm tore the chimney off of the kitchen in the summer of 1919, which was the second time this had happened since it was built. The residence was modernized in 1927 at a cost of $1,531.18 and refurnished for an additional $1,150.62. After the remodeling was completed the house was converted to a Convent House for the Sisters of Notre Dame who were teaching in the school. The house was used in later years as a residence for the elderly.

THE PRIEST HOUSE

In December 1880, an additional one-half acre of land was purchased from John Ferner. A red brick Priest house was built on the site in 1883 by Father Dambach at a cost of approximately $2,700. Father Zinsmayer paid the bill for the construction when he became pastor and also furnished the residence as well. The Priest House was painted in May, 1898, at a cost of $48.90. Two rooms in the house were papered and one was carpeted. Also, a sheet of linoleum was bought and placed down on the kitchen floor. In addition, a new lawn and 25 shade trees were planted around the residence, greatly improving its appearance. The residence was remodeled and modernized with city conveniences with the addition of a coal fired hot water furnace and indoor bathrooms in 1907 by Father Phyl.

In June 1914, a gas line was installed to provide natural gas for the furnace. The horse barn adjacent to the house was converted to a garage and a lane leading up to the garage was made in 1917. The parish councilmen took up a collection and presented the pastor with $165 towards the price of a new Ford car. In September 1918 a new engine and water pumps were installed in the basement of the Priest House. After electricity was added on April 24, 1926, an electric water pump, a Hoover vacuum cleaner, an American Beauty iron, a Whirlpool wash machine, a Frigidaire refrigerator, and an electric floor lamp were purchased for the pastor. At the beginning of December, 1926, oak flooring was added in the front corridor, front room, and dining room.

PRIESTS FROM ST. TERESA PARISH

Fr. Francis Bungart, S.J.
Fr. John J. Schwartz

WOMEN IN RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Sisters of St. Joseph

Sr. Eulalia Kilm
Sr. Tersita Monchein

Notre Dame Sisters

Sr. Mary St. Martha Conrad
Sr. Coreen Jungbluth
Sr. Francelia Klingshirn
Sr. Jeanne Claire DeChant

SISTERS WHO TAUGHT AT ST. TERESA WHO ARE STILL LIVING

Sisters of Notre Dame

Sister Mary Harold, 1936
Sister M. Daniel, 1941
Sister M. Jane Olatta, 1953
Sister M. Leonelle, 1955
Sister M. Robertine, 1958
Sister M. Therese Hennessey, 1960
Sister M. Rose Ann, 1961
Sister M. Rosalind Vilics, 1961
Sister Ann Marie Kanusek, 1964
Sister M. Katherine Davidson, 1964
Sister M. Jacqueline Hobin, 1965

PRIESTS WHO SERVED ST. TERESA MISSION AND CHURCH:

1843-1845	Father McLaughlin *As a mission from Holy Trinity
1845-1846	Father Francis De Sales Brunner *As a mission
1846-1850	Father Ringele *As a mission
1850-1851	Father Mathias Kreusch * As a mission
1851-1853	Father Peter Weber *As a mission
1853-1854	Father John Van Den Broeck *As a mission
1854-1855	Father Ringele * As a mission
1855-1856	Father Englebert Raff *As a mission
1856-1858	Father Mathias Kreusch * As a mission
1858-1858	Father Anton Kramer * First Diocesan Priest
1858-1860	Father Amadeus Dambach
1860-1861	Father Eusebius Henzler
1861-1862	Father J. M. Roetzer
1862-1870	Father Nicholas Schmitz
1870-1870	Father Charles Barbier
1870-1874	Father Nicholas Hammang
1874-1876	Father Jacob Heidegger
1876-1881	Father Amadeus Dambach *As a mission from St. Mary's
1881-1883	Father Amadeus Dambach *First permanent Pastor
1883-1895	Father Dominic Zinsmayer *50th Anniversary Celebrant
1895-1897	Father John H. Hennes
1897-1897	Father Charles Settele
1897-1900	Father John H. Hennes
1900-1901	Father A Magenhann
1901-1904	Father Philip A Schritz
1904-1904	Father John Bertemes
1904-1904	Father George N. Stuber *As a mission from St. Mary's
1904-1909	Father Francis J. Pfyl
1909-1941	Father Adam Senger
1941-1955	Father Joseph Eiringer *100th Anniversary Celebrant
1955-1974	Father Raymond J. Grismer
1974-1988	Father John Walker
1988-1989	Father Joseph Mach
1990-	Father Edward J. Luca *150th Anniversary Celebrant

Section Three

PARISH FIRSTS

The reader must appreciate the fact that the early church records were all recorded in handwritten German. Also, please understand that similar events must have occurred at earlier dates but were either not recorded, or the records have been lost or destroyed. An attempt has been made at an accurate and literal translation from the "RECHNUNG BUCH, 1846" which was started in 1846. It is not only possible, but probable, that there were certain events in Saint Teresa Parish which preceded the first recorded entries in our parish archives. In those days, the visiting missionaries or priests may have recorded entries in their home station, or in the books of a more established parish nearby. Our parish was serviced from 1845 until 1858 by the Precious Blood Fathers (Sanguinists) who had their home base at that time at Saint Alphonsus Church in Peru, Ohio (near Norwalk). The same missionaries also visited the churches of Holy Trinity and Saint Mary in Avon (then called French Creek). Entries for Saint Teresa parishioners, without designating them as Saint Teresa parishioners, were at times made in the books at Holy Trinity Church and Saint Mary Church.

Entries from the oldest extant record books of Saint Teresa church list the following for the first baptism, first wedding, and first death:

FIRST RECORDED BAPTISM:

June 2, 1848 — Elizabeth, daughter of John and Marie Forster. Sponsors listed as Leopold Miller and Elizabeth Keller. The minister of Baptism is listed as A.E. Cleveland.

There is no other priest or missionary listed anywhere in Saint Teresa records whose initials were A.E. A search of the archives of the Diocese likewise listed no priest whose first name or last name began with an "A" or an "E" who was in Cleveland. In reading the history of Holy Trinity Church in Avon, there is a statement that Bishop Amadeus Rappe, the first Bishop of Cleveland, blessed the church of

Holy Trinity in Avon on Trinity Sunday in June, 1848. Historically in the past, Bishops signed names and documents with their first name (Christian name) and their title or office. Hence the "A.E. Cleveland" listed for our first baptism probably means "Amadeus, Episcopus, Cleveland." (Amadeus, Bishop, Cleveland). The Holy Father even today signs documents at times as Johannis Paulus II, P.M. (i.e. John Paul II, Supreme Pontiff).

FIRST RECORDED WEDDING: (Three are listed for the same date)

June 28, 1851	John Favre (probably also known as Faber) and Anna Clingson (probably also known as Klingshirn)
	Anton Harig and Gertrude Brautigam
	John Anthony Pafer, widower, and Margaret Thoman, widow

The priest who witnessed these marriages is P. Weber. No other members of the wedding parties are listed.

FIRST RECORDED DEATH:

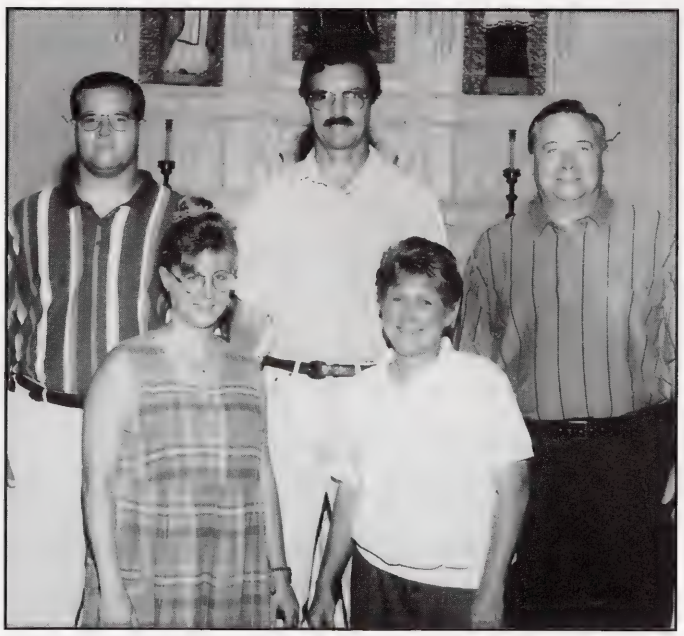
May 26, 1854	Joseph Kihm, about 3 months old.

While no other information appears in the record, a cross-check with the Baptismal Register lists a Joseph Kihm, son of George Kihm and Margaritha Heider, as being baptized March 13, 1854. He would have been about three months old May 26, 1854.

THE CHOIRS OF ST. TERESA PARISH IN 1995

St. Teresa Parish has been blessed with the musical talents of many fine parishioners. A visitor to the 4:30 P.M. Mass on Saturday is treated to the melodious voices of a contemporary Folk-Choir accompanied by the strains of guitars. At the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, attendees are treated to the sounds of a more traditional choir group accompanied by the organ. Attending the 11:00 a.m. Mass, the melodious voices of a formal choir, accompanied by a Choir Director/Cantor and supported by the organ, will be heard reverberating throughout the whole church and the surrounding neighborhood. Regardless of what your musical preference is, the Parishioners of St. Teresa Church feel fortunate at having such a talented and dedicated group of people. For it has been said that "He who sings well, prays twice."

4:30 Choir



9:00 Choir

11:00 Choir

Parish Nurse Association

Craft Group

Servers

Eucharistic Ministers

CHURCH FINANCES THEN AND NOW

Finance Council

The parish celebrated its first 50 years in 1895. The total receipts for the year ending 1895 were $1,975.21 and the total expenses were $1,968.09. The balance on hand was $7.12. It is interesting to note that the receipts for the entire year 1895 are approximately the receipts for only a week in 1995. Our average receipts for fiscal year 1994-95 were $2,100.00 weekly while average expenses were $2,000.00.

Parish Council

Altar & Rosary Society

Readers/Lectors

Appendix

Pre-School PSR Instructors

Bingo Workers

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF EVENTS

October 15 - Sunday	(Patronal Feast of Saint Teresa Avila)
1:00 p.m.	Opening Mass - Most Rev. Bishop A. James Quinn, Auxiliary Bishop Rev. Edward J. Luca, Pastor - Homilist
7:00 p.m.	Evening Service (Sister Margaret Marszal, H.M.)
October 16 - Monday	
7:00 p.m.	Evening Service (Sister Margaret Marszal, H.M.)
October 17 - Tuesday	
7:00 p.m.	Evening Service (Sister Margaret Marszal, M.H.)
October 18 - Wednesday	
7:00 p.m.	Evening Service (Rev. Leon J. Flaherty, C.PP.S.)
October 19 - Thursday	
7:00 p.m.	Evening Service (Rev. Leon J. Flaherty, C.PP.S.)
October 20 - Friday	
7:00 p.m.	Evening Service (Rev. Leon J. Flaherty, C.PP.S.)
October 21 - Saturday	
4:30 p.m.	Saturday Vigil Mass
October 22 - Sunday	(Sesquicentennial Celebration)
9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday Mass
11:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday Mass
1:00 p.m.	Anniversary Mass - Most Rev. Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop of Cleveland Rev. Leon J. Flaherty, C.PP.S. - Homilist
3:00 p.m.	150th Anniversary Dinner - Tom's Country Place, Avon

_____ Thoughts & Memories